(d) if so, the details thereof and the proposals of various formulae considered by the Central Government and State Governments so far; and

(e) whether now it has been decided that Planning Commission would work out a unanimous formula in this regard and if so, by when this formula would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The first meeting of the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) held on 5th October 2009 resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. Currently, sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million litres per day (mild) is available against about 3000 mild being generated in the towns along Ganga. An estimated investment of Rs.15,000 crore over the next 10 years will be required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure.

Under the ongoing centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan, Centre and States share the capital costs in the ratio of 70:30 respectively, it was decided in the aforesaid meeting of NGRBA that funds required for 'Mission Clean Ganga' will be shared suitably between Centre and States after consultation with the States, Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission.

Conservation of lakes

3439. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing lakes in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of conservation, these lakes have dried up in the recent past; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to conserve these lakes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country. Under the Scheme, the Ministry has so far, sanctioned projects for conservation of 58 lakes identified by the states, at a cost of Rs. 883.94 crore.

The proposals for new lakes are considered for sanction subject to their admissibility as per NLCP guidelines, pollution status, prioritization and availability of funds under the Plan. This Ministry has not received any report from the States regarding drying of lakes in the recent past.

Copenhagen meeting on climate change

3440. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: